

**Vito's Pizzeria & Restaurant**  
**673 Silas Deane Hwy**  
**Wethersfield, CT 06109**  
**860-563-3333**

February 5, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Linda Maffucci and I am the manager of Vito's Pizzeria & Restaurant, a family-owned and operated business for over 30 years located in Wethersfield.

As a small business owner, I feel it is incumbent upon me to voice my opposition to HB-6187, a proposed bill which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This would substantially increase our business costs and force us to reevaluate other benefits that we are able to provide for our employees.

My sister and I now run and operate our small restaurant which our parents opened in 1978. We urge you to consider the price this bill imposes on small businesses. Please allow us to make our own decisions in paying and offering benefits to our employees. We have already suffered a loss in revenue due to the current recession, as have many restaurants in the area. Fewer customers are willing to dine out, meanwhile our expenses such as taxes, utilities, insurance and payroll (due to the recent increase in minimum wage) are ever-increasing. We have already had to make cuts and reduce employee hours; we often run with minimal staff whenever possible. Now that the state is possibly mandating more costs, where will small business find the money to pay for mandated sick time? If forced to pay for this sick time, I fear that our remaining customers will be paying more for their meals to cover the costs of HB-6187. If the state keeps proposing these regulations then it is the consumers who will pay the price. I am afraid they won't come out to dinner at all, thus there will be less incoming sales tax for Connecticut or worse, we will have to shut our doors completely and there will be no state revenue at all, leaving more workers will be without a job.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Maffucci